Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, to prosecute Group I, which includes claims 1-3 and 13-14. Applicants would like to suggest that the Examiner search SEQ ID NO:41 as a representative of the combination that is believed to be free of prior art.

Also, Applicants were under the impression that one method within the scope of the product claim could be examined with the composition without placing undue burden on the Examiner. If so, Applicants would like to have claims 9-12 of Group IV examined with the claims of Group I. If, during prosecution, the claimed product represented by the combination and by the polynucleotide having the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:41 is found to be allowable, Applicants will request that all methods claims using the product be recombined.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 16-20 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 11, and 12 as shown in the attached "Version with markings to show changes made".

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are listed below.

1. (Once Amended) A composition comprising a plurality of polynucleotides wherein the polynucleotides have the nucleic acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs:1-48 or the complements of SEQ ID NOs:1-48.

Subject 2. (Once Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:41 and the complement of SEQ ID NO:41.

3. A composition comprising a polynucleotide of claim 2 and a labeling moiety.

4. A method of using a polynucleotide to screen a plurality of molecules to identify at least one ligand which specifically binds the polynucleotide, the method comprising:

a) combining the composition of claim 1 with a plurality of molecules under conditions to allow specific binding; and

b) detecting specific binding, thereby identifying a ligand which specifically binds a polynucleotide.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the composition is attached to a substrate.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the molecules to be screened are selected from DNA molecules, RNA molecules, peptide nucleic acids, mimetics, and proteins.

7. A method of using a polynucleotide to purify a ligand, the method comprising:

a) combining the polynucleotide of claim 2 with a sample under conditions to allow specific binding;

b) recovering the bound polynucleotide; and

c) separating the ligand from the bound polynucleotide, thereby obtaining purified ligand.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the polynucleotide is attached to a substrate.

9. A method for using a polynucleotide to detect gene expression in a sample, the method comprising:

a) hybridizing the composition of claim 1 to a sample thereby forming at least one hybridization complex;

b) detecting complex formation, wherein complex formation indicates gene expression in the sample.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the polynucleotides of the composition are attached to a substrate.

11. (Once Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the sample is selected from blood or cells or tissues of the heart or vasculature.

12. (Once Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein gene expression is compared to standards and indicates the presence of atherosclerosis, arteriosclerosis, atrial fibrillation, cancer (myxoma), complications of cancer, cardiac injury, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, hypertension, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, myocardial hypertrophy, myocardial infarction, or plaque.

13. A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 2.

14. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 13.

15. A method for using a host cell to produce a protein, the method comprising:

a) culturing the host cell of claim 14 under conditions for expression of the protein; and

b) recovering the protein from cell culture.